

Clauses 12, 13, and 14 :

Agreed to.

Clause 15—Compensation to owners of private land for loss or damage :

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) moved that the following words be added to the clause : "Provided always, that nothing in this Act shall in any way affect the rights of the Crown in or over, or in respect of, any lands in the colony." He thought it was very desirable that this should be provided for.

MR. STEERE: It appears to me we have already interfered with the rights of property to a greater extent than is permitted by the Land Regulations, and now it is proposed to give the Crown still greater powers.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman): The hon. member misunderstands me. Without compensation the Crown may enter upon any land, but, having entered, compensation may in certain cases be claimed, and the object of this proviso is to relieve the Crown from liability for compensation in respect of rights which it possesses under the deed of grant.

MR. WITTENOOM thought some provision ought to be made compelling the Government to keep the land used for these telegraphs clear of all underwood. The law compelled lessees to "burn" their runs, and unless these telegraph posts were kept clear, they were liable to be burned down, and there were very stringent penalties provided in the event of any damage being done to the lines.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said that was a very good hint to those whom it concerned, to keep the posts cleared. A person "burning" his run, however, would not come under the meaning of the expression "wilfully or maliciously"—it would almost be an accident, if a telegraph post were damaged, under such circumstances as the hon. member contemplated. It would be for the Government to guard against such accidents by keeping their lines clear. The hon. member would have a perfect right to "burn" his land, and if the Government did not keep their line clear it would be their own fault.

Amendment agreed to.

The clause was then put and passed.
Preamble and title agreed to.
Bill reported.

The House adjourned at nine o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 20th August, 1883.

Metalling of Main Street, Guildford—Estimates: Financial Statement—Vote for metalling Mangles Street, Guildford—Vote for Bridges, Sussex District—Telegraph line between Bridgetown and Bunbury—Forage and Travelling Allowance of Officials—Volunteer Bill: third reading—Concessions to Lessees, Kimberley District: Adjourned debate—Municipalities Act Amendment Bill: second reading—Totalisator Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

METALLING MAIN STREET, GUILDFORD.

MR. STEERE, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table any report or memorandum by the late Acting Commissioner of Railways, as to the completion of the metalling of the main street through Guildford, which had been rendered unsafe by the construction of the railway line, and the failure of the Government to place the street in its "former repair and condition."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) replied that some memoranda had passed between the Public Works' Department and his office on this matter, but they were not papers which the Government could produce. So far as the Government was concerned, the whole question was stated in the reply he gave the other day to the hon. member. (*Vide p. 230 ante.*)

ESTIMATES: FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The House having gone into Committee of Supply,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he proposed, before going into the details of the work which the committee had to perform, to offer some explanation with reference to our financial position, and to glance cursorily at the material advancement which the colony had made during the past few years. In doing so he would say what he had to say as briefly and as concisely as possible, without wearying the committee with minor details or dreary platitudes. The character in which he appeared before them was that of the steward of an estate that brought in an income of between £200,000 and £300,000 a year. There were many men in Australia whose private income was fully as great as that, but it was only by careful management and the exercise of the same virtues as made a country prosperous that the owners of these private estates had attained the position of wealth and comparative affluence which they now enjoyed; and he thought that, if those who were entrusted with the management and control of the public estate could show that they had faithfully carried out the trust reposed in them, in the way in which a just steward ought to do, no blame, at any rate, would attach to them. Before proceeding with an account of his stewardship, he would draw the attention of the committee to one or two facts, which were indisputable, with reference to the exact position in which the country finds itself at the present moment as regards its liabilities. He had a seat in that House, and he saw other members around him who also had a seat there, when this colony had no liabilities, when this colony had no public debt. The colony was handed over to the present management without any debt; it was handed over to the present management with a balance to its credit; and he would ask the committee to bear with him for a short time while he cursorily reviewed what they had done with the estate since it had begun to contract a debt which, by this time, had assumed considerable proportions. Going back to the year 1872, when he might say the colony was without any debt—for it was in that year that we

raised our first loan—he would ask hon. members to bear in mind the purposes for which we contracted our first debt. We raised that loan for divers and sundry purposes. It was only a small amount, a sum of £35,000, but our revenue at that time was also small, and did not amount to more than about £105,000 a year. We raised that loan for the extension of jetties, the erection of light houses, the construction of telegraphs, the construction of public buildings, and other works of public utility; in other words, we raised the money and spent the money in the improvement of the public estate. Following upon that, we raised another loan for the same useful purposes, and he maintained that, as in the case of a private individual who borrows money only for the purpose of improving his estate, it could not be said that this was a reckless step on our part. It was a very different thing to borrowing money and plunging into debt in order to enable the borrower to indulge in extravagances. Since the present constitution had been granted Western Australia, the colony had, from time to time, borrowed a very considerable sum altogether; but he hoped, he believed, it would be admitted that the money had been borrowed for useful purposes, and, so far as we had gone, our efforts in this direction had been rewarded with a corresponding improvement in our position, and had resulted in the material advancement of the colony. Whatever sums we had borrowed had been expended upon public works of utility, and public works which, if they had not proved directly reproductive from a financial point of view, had undoubtedly been productive of great public good. In borrowing this money, too, we had borrowed it at a very low rate of interest. Taking the whole of our liabilities, including the new loan which we had already entered upon,—reckoning the whole of our liabilities at £765,000, it might be said that we had borrowed the whole of this money at an average rate of less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Our earlier loans cost us more, but our larger and more recent loans had been floated at 4 per cent.; and when it was borne in mind that we brought all this amount into a colony where, as hon. members were aware, the value of money was nearly 50 per cent. over what we paid

for it, he thought it would be admitted that the colony had benefited to a considerable extent by that fact alone. In doing so we had encouraged settlement, we had stimulated the progress of the colony, and had initiated many important public works, which otherwise we could not have undertaken. The money had been expended cautiously, and it had been expended judiciously, and, as we borrowed it in the first instance at a low rate, the country, he thought, was to be congratulated on the general result. He held it was a right thing to do to call upon those who come after us, and who will participate in the results of the increased prosperity and the increased importance which would accrue to the colony by incurring this liability, to bear a share of the burden. This money was not borrowed solely to benefit the present occupiers of the estate, but also to benefit our posterity, and, therefore, it was only right that our posterity should undertake its share of the liability and that the repayment of this borrowed money should extend, as it would extend, over periods varying from over twenty-five to over fifty years, the sinking fund in some instances being at the rate of two per cent., and in others at the rate of one per cent. But although he thought the country was to be congratulated on the result of its loans, and on the advantages which had accrued to us from the expenditure of this borrowed capital, there was one fact in connection with this matter which must not be overlooked. It should not be said that through the assistance of this borrowed capital the colony had enjoyed a fictitious prosperity. He believed the prosperity of the colony was anything but fictitious; he believed it was sound and he believed it was enduring. Nor was he one of those who considered that the colony had reached the limit of its borrowing powers. When it was borne in mind that only ten years ago our public revenue was but a little over £100,000, and that our revenue next year was estimated at £270,000—and he hoped by another year it would be treble what it was in 1872; when it was also considered that the whole amount required for interest and sinking fund in connection with our total liabilities did not amount to more than £38,786, he did not think we need have any apprehension as to our having reached the limit of our borrowing powers. But what he would remind the committee of was, that, at one time during the period of our history referred to, we decided to construct a line of telegraph from this part of the colony to the South Australian border, and to pay for the construction of that line, out of current revenue, an amount of £50,000, which we subsequently considered expedient to borrow, for the purpose of recouping the revenue; also that, during a period of our financial depression, some five years ago, we borrowed another sum of £50,000 to relieve our revenue, for expenditure on roads and bridges—and, in his opinion, wisely did so, under the then circumstances of the colony, as it relieved the revenue from the annual charges in connection with the upkeep of our roads and the repairs of our bridges. He thought it right to remind the committee that during the last ten years we had borrowed some £100,000 in order to relieve or in order to recoup the revenue, and that this should not be lost sight of in the presence of the large surplus which the colony now had at its back. Passing on from the past to the more immediate present, and to the various matters which had been brought before them in the Speech with which His Excellency the Governor opened the session, he thought he might say there never had been a session in the history of the colony which had been called upon to deal with questions of such magnitude and importance as at the present session. They had had brought before them schemes connected with the construction of trunk railways, schemes connected with ocean telegraphy, and last but not least in importance a scheme for bringing in population, and thereby increasing the productive powers of the colony,—all of which schemes, he had no doubt, would receive due consideration at the hands of hon. members. Although the Legislature had had many important measures submitted for its consideration since he had had the honor and pleasure of serving in that House, no session, in his opinion, had been fraught with issues of such grave national importance as the present session, and never probably had the colony been in so good a position as it is now in for dealing with these important

measures. The condition of the colony, as regards its trade, was a very satisfactory one. He believed himself that in hardly any other colony in Australia was the work of the people productive of so large a profit as the work in which the people of this colony were engaged. When he looked at the census returns, and noticed the small number of persons who were employed throughout the colony in labor or occupations of a reproductive character, he was, he might say, astounded at the result. When he found that the total number of men engaged in agricultural and pastoral pursuits, and otherwise employed in the production of our principal articles of export, only amounted to 6000, and that these 6000 workers produced exports the value of which last year was estimated at £583,000, he must confess he was astonished. It certainly was a matter for astonishment, and it also was a matter for sincere congratulation. The value of the exports of the colony per head of the population, estimating the whole population at 32,000, was not less than £18 5s. per head, for every man, woman, and child in the colony. It showed on the one hand that the colony had in it the elements of progress and prosperity, and on the other hand that the people had skilfully adapted themselves to the circumstances of the colony, and were successfully following out their various vocations. But there was one feature in connection with this matter which he viewed with regret. From the figures which he had eliminated from these returns, it was apparent that agriculture did not occupy that attention and did not yield that return which might have been expected, and which he would have been glad to have observed. Our principal items of export last year were: lead ore, £14,348; pearl shell, £54,670; timber, £93,650; sandalwood, £96,050; and wool £301,235—making in the aggregate a sum of £557,433 out of a gross total of £583,000, leaving only about £25,000 from all other sources. When he looked at the fact that nearly the whole of our exports were derived from the mere extraction and the conveyance to market of the natural products of the soil such as lead ore, and timber and sandalwood, and pearl shell, and that the labor devoted to the attainment of this result

was labor which left no permanent mark behind it, but rather left so much void in the natural wealth of the country, he could not help regretting that some of this labor was not applied in other directions,—applied to developing the agricultural resources of the colony, instead of being devoted solely, as he had already said, to the mere utilisation and removal to market of natural products. Wool, it was true, was an exception; and wool was one of our standard industries, and the most important item in our export list—and he was gratified to find that during the last ten years our exports under this head had increased in value from £122,637, in 1872, to £301,235 in 1882; still the fact remained that what ought to be one of our staple industries, namely, agriculture and the production of cereals, continued to languish, and had made comparatively little or no progress. If hon. members would look at the Blue Book, which would shortly be placed in their hands, they would see that so far as this branch of industry was concerned the figures were entirely against us, for although, on the one hand, we sent £93,000 worth of timber to South Australia, we had, on the other hand, to take back a very large amount of cereals from that colony to supply our own local requirements. That was a state of things which he should like to see remedied. He said again, he thought it was much to be regretted that agriculture was not one of the main industries of the colony, and he could only express the hope that, with the introduction of additional labor, together with approved appliances and improved facilities of transit, we may yet see this industry, under the blessings of Providence, flourishing in our midst. At present this was the only dark spot which he noticed in the picture he had to present to them. It must be admitted that the climate of the colony and the capabilities of our soil are such that, if turned to advantage, would enable us not only to supply all our requirements as regards what are looked upon as the necessaries of life, but also supply us with some of its luxuries. This brought him face to face with the question of immigration—a question which for some days past had been occupying the attention of a select committee of the House. He believed with those

who expressed the opinion that, with our present population, no more could be accomplished than had already been accomplished in developing the resources of the colony. As he had already pointed out, we had really done wonders in this way,—bearing in mind the small handful of people engaged in the work; and the only reason we had not done more was because we had no more people to do it. He did not wonder himself that agriculture did not present a greater fascination to the young and the energetic among our colonists than it appeared to do, especially in view of the more brilliant prospects which opened before them in other directions, especially in pearling and in the establishment of cattle and sheep stations in the Northern parts of the colony; he did not wonder at their leaving the somewhat dull, prosaic, and rather ordinary life of the agriculturist, in order to follow more exciting pursuits, which required more enterprise, which required more pluck, and which called for the exercise of those moral and physical qualities which were characteristic of your genuine West Australian,—pursuits, also, which it must be admitted enabled those who followed them to accumulate wealth more rapidly than by leading what to the young and the energetic probably appeared a very humdrum existence. He hoped, however, that the result of our deliberations this session would be the introduction of a class of labor which might be utilised in the prosecution of what after all ought to be one of the mainstays of the colony. He believed that with the support which they were sure to receive in this matter from His Excellency the present Governor, who had shown himself anxious and ready to grapple with the difficulty in a practical way, and who had put forward a scheme which he (the Colonial Secretary) believed would meet with the support and approval of nearly every member of the House,—he hoped that, with the assistance and co-operation of His Excellency, the Legislature this session would adopt some scheme for supplying the colony with a desirable supply of labor, and for introducing a class of persons who may devote their energies towards making agriculture in this colony what it ought to be—a pro-

fitable occupation. If it was not going to be a profitable occupation, he would ask hon. members for what purpose he could only was expending its funds and proposed to alienate its land in the construction of railways? For what purpose had we already pledged ourselves to the expenditure of half a million of money—for it really resolved itself into that—in connecting our eastern and central agricultural districts with the capital and with the principal port of the colony? For what purpose were we going to enter into other and still more important schemes and projects for opening up the colony, unless it was with a view to the utilisation of the land for productive purposes? We must not be discouraged by the fact that agriculture at present was languishing, and that in the past it had not been a very profitable pursuit. He said we must not be discouraged, because in the past it was a pursuit which had been carried on in the face of many difficulties, and in spite of many obstacles—the absence of railway communication, the want of other improved appliances, and also the great want of labor. With these aids to success provided, with these elements of success present, he entertained no fear as to the future of agriculture in this colony. He felt no apprehension as to the future prosperity of the colony itself. Western Australia had been too long looked upon as the “Cinderella” of the family—a name which, however appropriate it may have been when it was first given to her by a gentleman well-known to them all, and who was once a distinguished member of that Council, was a name which he submitted was no longer applicable. He believed we might now safely change the name of our State vessel to that of *Fortune's Favorite*. He thought she need no longer sail under the somewhat disdainful name she had been known by in the past. He thought we may not only say, in the words of a former Governor, “At last she moves,” but that, having at last got on the right tack, and been favored with a fair wind, there was every prospect of making a safe and a prosperous voyage through the Pacific ocean of the future. He did not know that he need trespass on the time of the committee by referring to further statistics in proof of the stability of our position.

There were many points which it was customary to refer to on the occasion of making these financial statements, but they were all more or less hackneyed, and he did not know that hon. members would thank him if he were to take them over old paths, by this time pretty full of ruts which had been made by his predecessors in office, who had so often travelled over them. He did not think he would enlist for himself the gratitude of the committee if he were to indulge in stereotyped platitudes, and so exhaust their patience to no useful purpose; therefore, without further preface, he would ask the committee to bear with him while he glanced at the most salient features of the Estimates presented to them that evening of the proposed expenditure for the coming year. The total amount of the estimated expenditure was £272,540. It was not his intention at present to enter into details in connection with these Estimates; another opportunity would be afforded him for furnishing the committee with every information which they wished on these points. Hon. members would observe that there was a slight difference in the way in which the Estimates had been arranged. They were now separated into divisions, and each particular division, and each particular item was numbered, for the convenience of reference. He would only remark here, and he said it with regret, that in the preparation of these Estimates the Government did not feel itself in a position this year to make any material increase in connection with the salaries of public officers. Beyond those additions recommended by the House, as regards the salaries of one class of civil servants (clerks to magistrates), it was not proposed to add any increases on the Estimates for next year, as regards the emoluments of public officers, beyond the annual additions which some of the clerks were entitled to. The reason for this had been already explained in the Message which his Excellency the Governor had sent down, relating to this question, and he could only join with His Excellency in the expression of a hope that the continued prosperity of the colony would, next year, justify the Government in coming forward with a more general scheme for increasing the salaries of the public servants. With

regard to the framing of the Estimates, it would be observed that, as regards some of the departments, the items were given more in detail than had been the practice heretofore; this was specially the case with the Survey Department, the Works and Railways Department, the Postal and Telegraph Department, the Police, and also the Volunteer Department. The vote for the last named department in the past had been included in one lump sum, but, in view of the improved status which the Act passed this session had given to the Volunteers, the expenditure was now given in detail, as in the case of the other departments of the public service. There had been but very small increases in the votes for any of what he might call the administrative departments, and such additional expenditure as was contemplated was in connection with those services which must necessarily expand with the progress and extension of settlement, and with the necessity for increased protection and increased security which had to be provided for settlers and for the public generally in distant parts of the colony. The expenditure in connection with all the other departments had been kept as low as the exigencies and the efficiency of the service warranted, and having regard to the paternal form of Government under which we at present exist,—for within the Estimates of this colony were included items of expenditure which in other colonies were left to the sole management of local governing bodies, of district boards, and councils, rather than to the central Government. Here the Government took charge, he might say, of the souls as well as of the bodies of the people; it provided for them hospitals, it provided for them schools, depôts, and even lunatic asylums, and made provision for almost every want and for all the ills which a suffering public were supposed to have to deal with. Under our present form of Government probably this was the best arrangement that could be made, for there could be no doubt that, under this system of centralisation, the work of administration was more economically carried out than under a system of divided responsibility. If hon. members would glance through these Estimates, they would see how multifarious were the duties of a pa-

ternal Government, and to how large an extent they were charged with these fatherly cares. There was one head under which he was happy to say, and he was sure it would be equally gratifying to hon. members to learn, a considerable increase of expenditure was contemplated. He alluded to the additional provision made for roads and bridges, for which a sum of £15,000 had been set down, being half as much again as the amount previously granted under that head. It was also proposed to increase the vote for Immigration from £5,500 to 10,000 for next year. Possibly the committee might still further augment this vote, when it came on for discussion. This amount, he might say, was brought forward from the surplus account. If hon. members would also look at the provision made under the head of Works and Buildings, for which a vote of £16,615 was asked—being double the vote for this year—they would see that provision was made for a great number of works in various parts of the colony, from Albany at the South to Carnarvon at the North; and, seeing that the total amount proposed to be expended next year on the roads and bridges and on works and buildings alone amounted to about £32,000, he thought it would be admitted that the Government was not unmindful of the wants of country districts. He was not aware that he need detain the committee much longer. He had not risen to make an elaborate financial statement, for the reason that he did not see the utility of wearying hon. members with figures which were already placed before them in the various reports and returns which had been furnished to the House. Under the present system of Government, they printed so much for the information of hon. members that really hon. members were as fully informed as to the financial position of the colony and as regards departmental details as the members of the Executive Government were themselves. For this reason, he had very little new to bring forward; his budget contained little that was novel or little that was not already known to hon. members who had taken the trouble to acquaint themselves with the papers which had been presented to the House. With regard to what remained over and above what it was estimated would be required for

carrying on the public service, in other words, with regard to the surplus balance which would probably remain at the disposal of the Government at the end of the year, he hoped the committee would agree with him that it would be unwise to reduce this balance to any further extent. The estimates of expenditure had been framed in no miserly spirit, but at the same time he thought it behoved them to have due regard to economy, and, while making every provision within our means to meet the increasing expenditure entailed by the extension of settlement and the colonisation of new territory, he thought the committee would agree with him that it would be unwise, that it would be impolitic, on our part, to spend every penny we possess, or to contract liabilities which would convert our surplus into a deficiency. He should be sorry to see that House overstepping the bounds of prudence in this matter. There was no certainty yet that our present prosperous position, as regards increased revenue, was an assured prosperity, and, although it might not prove ephemeral—he did not apprehend that it would, he hoped it would not—still it would be unwise on our part to ignore the fact that we owed our present financial prosperity to two causes, namely, to an increase of taxation resorted to as a temporary expedient three or four years ago, and to the fact that our lands had met with unexpected favor outside the colony, and that consequently our territorial revenue had increased at a rate which even the most sanguine had not anticipated. The total land revenue of the colony, when he came here a few years ago, did not amount to more than £17,000, whereas last year we received from this source no less a sum than £76,000. This, then, was the cause of our present unprecedented prosperity. It had not been brought about by the policy of any Government or the policy of any Legislature but simply through force of circumstances, and of circumstances over which it might at any rate be said we had not the entire control,—although he thought the Government might fairly take credit, and the Council might also fairly take credit, for having during the last ten years persistently contributed to this result, by fostering exploration and otherwise seeking to dis-

cover fresh country available for settlement, and in every way practicable encouraging the development of the resources of the colony. He was happy to think that success had attended our efforts in this direction, and he hoped that with God's blessing the whole of this new territory would be more or less occupied within the next few years, and that in the course of another year or two, our prosperity will be so assured, our revenue will have become of so stable a character, that the Government and that House will be justified in further increasing, if necessary, the liabilities of the colony. At present, however, it behoved them to be cautious. He was rather a cautious man himself—there was a little of the Scotchman about him—and he thought it would not be wise or politic on our part to speculate with our income to the very last shilling, until at any rate we were assured that our income was a permanent one, and that the present prosperous condition of our revenue was but a foretaste of still greater prosperity to come. He had nothing now to add beyond that he begged to move the first item on the Estimates,—the Governor's Establishment, £443 16s. 8d.

MR. STEERE: Before the committee proceeds to vote any money, I should like to ask the Colonial Secretary whether he will be good enough to place on the table estimates showing the character and cost of the various public buildings for which votes are asked on these Estimates. I presume the Government have had estimates prepared, and I think we ought to have them before us, so that we may judge what the buildings will be likely to cost, and not be told, as we were told with regard to the estimate as to the Fremantle Jetty,—that it was a mere guess.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. H. Thomas): I should like to explain once more about that Fremantle Jetty. I was merely asked, when before the select committee, "What do you think it will cost?"—they never asked me to make an estimate, and I did not do so. I merely said, on the spur of the moment, what I thought it would cost, and it is not fair to charge me with having made a wrong estimate. I do not think my estimates, generally, have

been wrong, and, as a rule, I have carried out the works within the Estimates. But, if I am simply asked before a committee what I think such and such a work will cost, and I reply off-hand, of course I am not bound by that. Nor do I consider was I bound by the rough estimate I gave the select committee who asked me about this jetty, especially when, after an examination of the jetties, it was found that a great deal more work was necessary than I had contemplated.

MR. STEERE: I would ask the hon. gentleman whether he has any estimates prepared of the various works and buildings for which a vote is to be asked in connection with these Estimates?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. H. Thomas): Perhaps the hon. member will give notice of his question.

MR. STEERE: Well, I give the hon. gentleman notice of this—that I shall oppose all the items under the head of "Works and Buildings" until we have an estimate of what the buildings are likely to cost. I now move that progress be reported, and leave given the committee to sit again on Wednesday, August 22nd.

Motion agreed to, and progress reported accordingly.

VOTE FOR MAIN STREET, GUILDFORD.

MR. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to place on the Estimates such a sum of money as may be necessary for metalling Mangles Street, in the town of Guildford, on the North side of the Railway line, the said street having been rendered unsafe for traffic in consequence of the manner in which the roadway has been interfered with by reason of the construction of the Eastern Railway line along it, and the Government having acknowledged by letter dated the 12th April, from the Colonial Secretary to the Chairman of the Guildford Municipality, that the Government was liable to restore the road to its former repair and condition, but has taken no steps to redeem its confessed liability." The hon. member said he found it very difficult to get the

Government to do justice in the matter of this street, but he must hammer away at them until justice was done. He had already alluded to some correspondence that had taken place between the Government and the Municipality with reference to this street,—correspondence which the Colonial Secretary said could not be produced. It appeared that the Chairman of the Municipality, finding the street disturbed and cut up for the railway, wrote to the Government asking what they intended to do in the matter. A reply to this communication was sent to the Town Council, in which it was stated that His Excellency the Administrator was of opinion that although the Railway Department had properly enough interfered with the roadway, still, as it had in the exercise of its discretion injured the road, the Department ought to restore it to its former condition. Such a liability, His Excellency said, would apply to a private individual, and, as His Excellency was not prepared to draw any distinction in respect of the liability of Government and the liability of a private individual, orders would be given to restore the road to its former repair and condition. But what had the Government done to redeem this pledge? They certainly had not restored the street to its former repair and condition, for, at the present moment, it was most unsafe for traffic.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had already informed the hon. member that a wider portion of the street in question than had been taken for the railway had been formed and metalled by the Government, and he must say it appeared to him the hon. member was asking for his constituents more than they could reasonably expect. The Government, as he said the other day, had no funds available for undertaking any further repair, and he could not see, if this address were presented, what more could be done in the matter, unless the House voted a sum of money for the purpose. He did not think it would be equitable that a charge should be made against the general revenue of the colony for the repair of this street, and putting it in a better condition than it was in before the Government interfered with it—unless the House was prepared to do the same thing for other municipalities.

He hoped the hon. member would content himself with the knowledge that he had now done his duty towards his constituents in this matter, and that he would not be disposed to push his motion any further.

MR. SHENTON said one would think, from the position taken up by the Government in this matter, that the street was simply used for the benefit of the inhabitants of Guildford, but he would remind the House that the bulk of the traffic of the Eastern Districts, and also of the Victoria Plains and the Swan, passed through it. He had seen the road in question, and if that was the way the Works Department put the roads in repair, it did not speak much of their skill in road-making, for it was little better than a bog. At Geraldton, when the street was disturbed for the railway, it was put in as good a state of repair as it was before the railway touched it, and he thought the inhabitants of Guildford were entitled to the same consideration, more especially in the face of the letter addressed to the Chairman of the Municipality by the Government. He thought the Government had no right to endeavor to shirk its responsibility in this way.

MR. BROWN thought hon. members were placed in a somewhat awkward position as regards this matter. On the one hand they were informed by the hon. member for the district that the Government had taken no steps to redeem their confessed liability in respect to repairing this street, and, on the other hand, the Colonial Secretary informed them that the Government had actually done more than could reasonably be expected from them, even admitting their liability. Under these circumstances, he felt himself unable to vote either way.

MR. S. H. PARKER thought the hon. member for the Swan had made a mistake when he said the Government had taken no steps to redeem its pledge to the Municipality in reference to this street. He believed that after the date of the letter referred to (April 12) the Government had metalled one side of the street, and it appeared they were under the impression that having done this much they had done all that was necessary for them to do. But he thought anyone who carefully considered

that letter and the promise it contained would come to the conclusion that the Government had not carried out what the late Administrator intended to be carried out. His Excellency, as a lawyer, perfectly understood what was the meaning of the expression made use of when he spoke of the liability of a private individual if he disturbed a public street, in this way, and a cart or other vehicle travelling along got capsized. A private individual, in that case, would be liable for any damage caused by his negligence or default; and the Administrator of the Government told the Chairman of the Guildford Town Council that, as a lawyer, he could draw no distinction between the liability of the Government and the liability of a private individual in this respect, and directed that the street should be placed in such a condition as to be perfectly safe for traffic. The question was,—had the Government carried out these directions? From what he had seen of the street, he should say they had not, and, no doubt, in the event of an accident, the Commissioner would be liable to an action for damages, and he hoped the Government would take the matter in hand at once. He believed they *had* taken some steps towards restoring the street to its former state of repair, and therefore he could not subscribe to the latter part of the resolution; he should consequently move to strike out the following words: "but has taken no steps to redeem its confessed liability."

MR. BROWN said it plainly was the duty of the Government to put the street in the same condition as they found it. No doubt this would cost a great deal of money, but he for one would be prepared to vote it. Had the Council not insisted upon taking the railway through this street, we should not have been put to all this expense.

MR. CAREY thought the result had shown that the Council had made a mistake, and that the Commissioner of Railways was to a certain extent in the right.

MR. BURT said it might appear strange that such a small matter should raise such a strong feeling, but, it seemed to him that whenever the Government touched a road or a bridge they went about it in such a way as to raise the ire of the public. There was no question

that all this difficulty about restoring the street to its proper condition simply arose out of the fact that the railway had been taken through it contrary to the wishes of the Commissioner. It was the plain duty of the Government at once to take steps to repair both sides of the street, and to render it not only passable but safe for traffic.

The resolution, as amended, was then agreed to.

VOTE FOR BRIDGES IN SUSSEX DISTRICT.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to have placed on the Estimates for 1884 the sum of £100 to be expended by the Busselton Municipality on the repairs of a causeway and two (2) bridges in Busselton, and the sum of £250 to be expended by the Sussex Roads Board in the erection of a bridge over the Wilyabrup Brook on the Hamelin and Augusta Road." The hon. member read a letter from the Municipal Council with reference to the first portion of the address, pointing out the necessity for the works and the claims which the Municipality had for some assistance, in view of the large public traffic over the causeway and the bridges. It was estimated that about £100, in addition to the local rates available, would do the work. As to the latter part of the address, the hon. member read a communication from the Chairman of the Roads Board, calling attention to the necessity for a bridge over the stream indicated. Although other districts of the colony had been assisted largely out of the Road Loan, the total amount received by the Vasse district, during 1881-2, was only £191 5s., owing to a disagreement between the local Roads Board and the Superintendent of Roads. He therefore thought the House might fairly be asked to agree to this address.

MR. SHENTON, without wishing in any way to oppose the address, suggested that as there was a very considerable sum placed on the Estimates for next year for roads and bridges, this money might come out of that vote, and perhaps the hon. member would not mind amending his resolution to that effect.

MR. CAREY said the hon. member's suggestion might have been accepted by him but for the fact that the district, as he had already said, had only received about £190 out of the Road Loan—an amount which was altogether disproportionate to the sums received by other districts, and, under the circumstances, he thought the district had a special claim upon the House. He considered it would be very unfair towards the district if these amounts were made a charge upon the annual grant.

The address was then agreed to.

TELEGRAPH LINE BETWEEN BRIDGETOWN AND BUNBURY.

MR. VENN, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, nor, praying that he will be pleased to place on the Estimates for 1884 a sufficient sum of money to defray the cost of constructing a line of telegraph between Bridgetown and Bunbury." The hon. member said this was no new movement; it had been brought under the attention of successive Governors for many years, and was reported upon years ago by a Commission, consisting of the present Colonial Secretary, the Director of Public Works, and the Superintendent of Telegraphs (Mr. Fleming), and although their report was not favorable to the construction of the line at that time, that was no reason why the work should not now be undertaken. The Commission reported that a tree line might be erected between the places for about £1000, and he thought it would be agreed that, if this was the case, a great boon might be provided for the inhabitants of the district at a comparatively small cost.

MR. STEERE had much pleasure in supporting the motion. Representations on the subject were made to the Government, four years ago, by the settlers of the district, and he believed a promise was made by the then Governor that the line should be constructed. That it would be a great boon to the inhabitants of Bridgetown and its vicinity there could be no doubt, for, at present, they were without a medical man in the district, and they often had occasion to send in to Bunbury for one. He did not suppose

that the line would be directly remunerative to the Government, any more than he thought was any other telegraph line in the colony. At any rate, generally speaking, these country lines did not pay their working expenses, but that was not considered an argument against keeping them open. The public convenience and the indirect benefits were very great indeed, and he hoped the House would look at the matter in this light.

MR. CAREY said it gave him much pleasure to support the resolution. He brought the matter forward himself, four years ago, in the absence of the then member for the district, but at that time he did not receive much encouragement. Probably the House was in a more gracious mood now, and it would give him much satisfaction if the address were agreed to, particularly as he had been the first to move in the matter.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he would be the last man to rise to thwart any proposition which he thought would be for the benefit or to the advantage of any district; but, when the hon. member for Wellington asked him privately whether it was the intention of the Government to move in this matter this year, he told the hon. member that it was not. He hoped, however, that by next year our finances might be in such a prosperous state as to warrant the Government in undertaking this expenditure, and in carrying out the work in a proper manner,—not by a tree line. He found, on reference to the report of the committee appointed to consider the expediency of constructing this line, four years ago, that the committee were unable to find a single fact to lead them to consider it expedient. They said: "Between Bunbury and Bridgetown the route would be by the main road, a distance of sixty miles. The cost of the line and a station at Bridgetown, with instruments and fittings, we estimate at £2,550. The route is thickly wooded with jarrah and gum trees, and a tree-line—that is to say, insulators fixed to standing trees—may be erected at about half the above estimate; but there would be probably frequent interruption and constant repairs required." In another part of their report, the committee

stated that the annual cost of working this branch line would be £100 per annum. The House would see from this that the proposal involved an outlay of £2,500 for the construction of the line,—for the days of “tree lines” had gone by, and if the work were undertaken at all, it must be of the same character as our other telegraph lines; and that the upkeep would be £100 a year. In the preparation of this report the committee were assisted by the Superintendent of Telegraphs, who, as hon. members were aware, had obtained considerable experience in the working of our telegraph system. The question was, whether the Council thought they would be justified in going to an expenditure of £2,500 in the construction of this line. His sympathies were entirely with the member for the district and with the settlers in their desire to have improved facilities of communication, but he would ask the hon. member whether he did not think, even in the interest of his constituents, it would not be better to defer his motion until next year, and see whether we should not then be in a position to undertake the work in the manner in which it ought to be undertaken, rather than advocate the construction of a makeshift in the shape of a tree line.

MR. MARMION thought the appeal made to the hon. member who had brought forward this motion was a very sensible appeal. It certainly appeared to him that the time had not yet arrived when the State should undertake the construction of a telegraph line to Bridgetown,—50 or 60 miles of telegraph to suit the convenience of about an equal number of settlers. He hoped the hon. member would withdraw his motion, or, at any rate, show the House that the work was a work of urgent necessity, which had not been done yet. As to there being no medical man in the district, it would be cheaper for the Government to provide the district with a doctor than with a telegraph station.

MR. STEERE would like to know which of the two proposals hon. members considered the more important—the construction of this telegraph line or the erection of a Town Hall at Fremantle?

MR. MARMION: Not to be mentioned in the same breath.

MR. CROWTHER: Or whether it would not be more desirable to expend the same sum in the establishment of telephone exchanges.

MR. MARMION: Divide.

The committee divided upon the address with the following result—

Ayes ...	...	...	...	7
Noes ...	...	...	...	12

Majority against ... 5

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Carey	Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Crowther	Hon. A. F. Hensman
Mr. Grant	Hon. J. H. Thomas
Mr. S. S. Parker	Hon. J. Forrest
Mr. Randell	Mr. Burges
Mr. Steere	Mr. Glyde
Mr. Venn (Teller).	Mr. Hamersley
	Mr. Higham
	Mr. McKee
	Mr. Shenton
	Mr. Wittenoom
	Mr. Marmion (Teller).

The motion was therefore negatived.

FORAGE AND TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES OF OFFICIALS.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, brought before the House the question of forage allowance and travelling expenses of officials. The hon. member said it might appear to some hon. members that it would be very unfair towards the public officers who had been in receipt of forage allowance for many years past, to deprive those officers of these allowances now, and, as many of them were only in receipt of a small salary, that it would be only fair that, in lieu of forage allowance, they should have an addition of £50 a year to their salary, which would be equivalent. That, however, was a matter which he would leave the House to deal with. The only objection to that, in his mind and probably in the minds of other members, was that such an arrangement would add to the amount of pension which these officers would be entitled to on leaving the service. He noticed that, in forage allowances alone, the colony was paying considerably over £2000 a year, and that the Estimates brought forward that evening contemplated a still further expenditure. These charges would not be so objectionable if those officers who were entitled to these allowances were content to draw what they were allowed, instead of making still further charges—and, as he submitted, most unwarrantable charges. He

would in the first place refer to the Government Resident at Geraldton, an officer who was in receipt of £100 a year as forage allowance, the extra £50 being given to him in consideration of certain extra duties which he was supposed to carry out within his district. Yet, he found that when the officer in question left home, on duty, although in receipt of this very handsome forage allowance, he almost invariably charged for the keep of his horses, and in some cases even for the hire of his horses. When the same officer had occasion to visit Northampton, and travelled by rail, he charged his railway fare, which he (Mr. Carey) thought was rather too much of a good thing, seeing that he was allowed £100 a year forage allowance. The same practice was brought under notice of the Government in the House last year, and a very strong opinion was expressed on the subject; but it appeared that nothing had been done to put a stop to it, for the same charges appeared again in connection with the Excess Bill this year. He would not detain the House by going into all the details of the various charges presented to the members of the select committee to whom that Bill was referred, but he would refer to one or two instances, in order to give the House some idea of the nature of these charges. Referring again to the Government Resident at Geraldton, he might state that when certain extra duties were imposed upon that officer he was distinctly told that these extra duties would carry no extra sum a year to his salary. But, he noticed that, in addition to his extra forage allowance, this officer made some very heavy charges. In addition to mileage—sometimes 42 miles sometimes 51 miles—at a shilling a mile, he also charged very high sums for his hotel bills. He found in one case, when he was away from home on the 22nd, 23rd, 24th, and 25th August last year, his hotel expenses for these four days amounted to £4 5s. 6d., and mileage (42 miles at 1s.) £2 2s.; so that in travelling a distance of forty-two miles from home, and being already in receipt of two forage allowances, this little trip cost the country £6 7s. 6d. He thought it was quite time a stop should be put to such charges as these. He could give a number of other items, of the same kind, but he did not

wish to occupy the time of the House longer than was absolutely necessary to point out the evil complained of. This officer when he proceeded North travelled by rail, and, although allowed forage allowance for two horses, charged his railway fare to the public; and, when he travelled South he charged mileage, and in all instances charged his hotel expenses. He did not mean to say his hotel expenses ought not to be charged, but he did think they were altogether excessive, and a great deal more than the public should be called upon to pay. He also found that in some cases he actually charged for horse hire, and sometimes for a carriage and pair—sometimes 30s. sometimes 20s. a day. There was another Resident Magistrate, who was in receipt of £50 a year forage allowance—the Magistrate at the Williams, who, in all cases, when he left home on duty also charged for the keep of a pair of horses. The hotel bills in this case were very reasonable indeed, but his charges for forage, although in receipt of a forage allowance, were charges which the public had a right to complain about. For instance, on one day, 31st August last, he charged 12s. 6d. for stabling at a house on the road, and 3s. for two feeds for the road in addition; and, on the same day, when he came to another house, there was a further charge of 10s.—making a sum of £1 5s. 6d. for the keep of his horses for one single day, although in receipt of forage allowance all the time. The charges were not so heavy as this every time, but they were never less than 13s. per diem for forage. He next came to the Survey Department. Hon. members were aware that some years ago the House voted £150 a year forage allowance for the Surveyor General, the Deputy Surveyor General, and two of the staff surveyors. On the Estimates placed before them that evening, although it was not proposed to fill up the vacancy caused by the promotion of the Deputy Surveyor General, he noticed there were three instead of two staff surveyors who were to receive £150 a year each, as forage allowance—making, with the Surveyor General's allowance, a sum of £600 a year for the officers of this department. On one occasion, when the late Deputy Surveyor General was acting as Comptroller of Convicts at Fremantle,

although the Colonial Government paid him £150 a year forage allowance, his horse was kept free of charge for him at the Imperial stables, kept and paid for with Imperial funds. (Mr. FORREST: No.) He was glad to hear the hon. gentleman say so. He had always been under that impression, and other hon. members had also been under the same impression. At any rate the fact remained that, although we were paying these staff surveyors £150 a year forage allowance, the horses of these officers were found by the Government, and these horses were also kept for them; they were not called upon either to find their own horses nor to keep their own horses, yet the House was asked to vote them about £3 a week forage allowance. He thought it was high time this sort of thing should cease. He noticed that the Superintendent of Telegraphs never exceeded the limit of his allowance, and the same with the Inspector of Schools and the Sub-Inspector, none of whom ever charged for horse hire or for horse keep when absent on duty. Why should other officers be allowed to do so? With regard to the travelling expenses of officials, he noticed that the Newcastle medical officer charged £6 9s. 6d. for attending Miss Brown at Northam, when that lady was ill, on one occasion; and that some public officers, when travelling by the steamer, had their fares paid by the Government. Talking of steamers, he noticed a curious charge made of £2 5s. for refreshments on board the *Rob Roy*, during one trip, being an average of 7s. 6d. a day for drinks. He thought when public officers got their fares paid they ought to be satisfied without saddling the country with their drink bill. Although it might appear a very small matter, he might also mention a case when two Government officials residing at Fremantle, having occasion to go over to Rottnest, called at Cæsar's hotel on the way, and, in connection with this visit to Cæsar's, he found the following interesting item,—“Cash paid, refreshments, 10s. 6d.” The sum was a very small one it was true, but it did seem strange that two gentlemen leaving their own doors, to go into a boat to cross over to Rottnest, should call at an hotel on the way and charge the public half-a-guinea for “refreshments.” In con-

trast to the charges he had referred to, some officers charged exceedingly low when travelling. For instance, when the Comptroller of Convicts at Fremantle had occasion to come to Perth on duty connected with the Colonial Government, although he was away from home four days, his expenses only amounted to 30s. including his railway fare—not £6 7s. 6d., the expenses charged by the Government Resident, Geraldton, for the same period. He also noticed that the travelling expenses of the late Acting Crown Solicitor were also very moderate, and that those of the Resident Magistrate at Fremantle were in singular contrast with the travelling expenses of the Geraldton Government Resident. The Inspectors of Police, who were supposed to occupy the positions of gentlemen, also made very moderate charges indeed, confining themselves to 7s. 6d. per diem. These moderate charges only served to bring into greater prominence the extravagant and unfair charges made by other officers; and, having once more directed the attention of the Government to this matter, he hoped some steps would be taken to put a stop to such charges as he had referred to. It was his intention to conclude with a resolution on the subject, which, it would be observed, excluded certain officers from coming within the scope of the resolution, and he thought the House would agree with him that in the case of these officers it would be undesirable to abolish their forage allowances. The resolution he had to move was as follows: “That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to take such steps as may be necessary to abolish the system of Forage Allowances in the Public Service—except as regards the Governor's Establishment, the Linemen employed on the Eucla Telegraph Line, and the Resident Magistrates for the Gascoyne and Kimberley Districts—and making more economical and satisfactory arrangements as regards the travelling expenses of officials.”

Mr. CROWTHER said that whilst he was as anxious as the hon. member who had brought forward the motion that every economy should be exercised by Government officials when spending the public money, still he must say he did

not think the hon. member had put some of the cases he had referred to in a true light. As to the Government Resident at Geraldton, when that officer was appointed to that position from Bunbury he at first declined the offer, simply because the emoluments of the office, though higher than what he was actually in receipt of, were not sufficient in his estimation over and above what he was getting where he had a home of his own. The Government, in order to induce him to accept the appointment, offered to give him two forage allowances instead of one. Some years afterwards, the hon. member for the Swan brought forward a motion—which he was sorry to say was carried—reducing the forage allowance again to a single allowance, which continued for some time. When the hon. member, however, was away from the colony, another hon. member (Mr. Brown) brought forward a resolution to the effect that the promise made by the Government to this officer should be held sacred, and, the resolution being adopted, the two allowances were given back to him. A few years ago it was thought by the Government that the office of Resident Magistrate at the Greenough might as well be abolished, and the Geraldton Resident was told that he would be expected to do the duty of the two offices. Of course he naturally demurred to this, unless some further inducement were offered to him, and the Government told him that, as they were not in a position to give him any extra salary, they would allow him forage allowance, when out, and also mileage, which they considered the best arrangement they could make, and he thought the House would be of the same opinion. Increased work and increased travel were the result, and this extra expense—though a saving on the original arrangement—was not in the shape of increased pay to the officer in question, but simply expenses actually incurred by him in travelling about, discharging his magisterial duties. He did not think there was any real ground for attacking this officer—a gentleman who had served the colony well and faithfully for many years. He must raise his voice against these personalities which the hon. member who brought forward this motion intro-

duced into the debates. He did not like this system of personal attack and cheese-paring; he liked to strike at a principle. If the system of forage allowance and of travelling allowance was a bad system, let it be abolished altogether, and let not the time of the House be wasted in wrangling over a few shillings, the cost of a dinner, or a feed for a horse.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said it was no part of his duty to defend the whole of the officers who had been selected by the hon. member for the Vasse for attack; he had no doubt his hon. colleague the Colonial Secretary would deal with most of them, and defend the public service generally from the animadversions cast upon it. Before coming to his own department, he might be allowed to say a few words with reference to one or two other cases mentioned by the hon. member for the Vasse. The hon. member took exception to certain officials charging for baiting more than once in one day, and instanced the case of the Government Resident at Geraldton and at the Williams. Seeing that the former had to visit Dongarra, it would be absolutely necessary he should bait once or twice on that journey, while as to the Resident at the Williams there were one or two stopping places between that place and Kojonup, which he had to visit regularly, and which cost a considerable amount of money, which it appeared he charged. He certainly thought the Resident Magistrates in the country districts should have a horse, and, in view of the small salary they received, he thought the least the Government might do was to provide them with one. As to the Survey Department, and the forage allowance which had been granted to some of the officers of that department for many years past, it was found that the system of granting these allowances was a more convenient one than providing the surveyors with horses and equipments and hotel expenses. It was considered more advisable and more economical in the long run to give them a fixed sum, and let them provide themselves; and, so far as his own experience went, ranging over nearly twenty years, he thought it was only in very few cases that any extra expense had been allowed these

officers. They had to find their own horses, equipments, saddlery, and all, and, if they went to Albany, they had to pay their steamer fare. If these allowances were done away with, and the arrangement which he presumed the hon. member for the Vasse wished to see adopted were carried out, it would necessitate the Government keeping livery stables in Perth, as was done in some of the other colonies, and we should then have to pay all the travelling expenses of these officers. The hon. gentleman, in conclusion, read two letters addressed to a late Governor by an officer formerly employed in the Survey Department, pathetically urging his claims to increased forage allowance,—and that, too, at a time when the staff surveyors were receiving £200 a year forage allowance, instead of £150 as at present. The officer who made these applications, the hon. gentleman added, was none other than the hon. member for the Vasse himself.

MR. CAREY said there was a vast difference between the travelling done by surveyors twenty years ago from what was done in these days. The surveyors in those days found their own horses and kept them. The hon. gentleman might consider he had done a very clever thing in reading these letters, but it would not convince the House that the comparison was in any way a fair one. He did not propose for a moment that, if officials were deprived of these allowances, they should pay their own travelling expenses. What he wished was that they should be simply paid their actual expenses, and that those expenses should be fair and reasonable. At present they neither found their horses nor kept them. (MR. FORREST: Yes, they do). He did not propose to take away these allowances from those officers who actually required them for the discharge of their official duties, but there were others who had no claim to them at all. He thought, if he were to press his resolution to a division, it would be carried, but his principal object was to draw the attention of the Government to what he might call the abuses of the present system.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he should like to dispel what was an erroneous impression on the part of the hon. mem-

ber for the Vasse, who said that in these days surveyors neither find nor keep their horses. When surveyors had been ordered to remote parts of the colony, such as the Gascoyne, Nickol Bay, or Kimberley, it had been found impossible for them to take their own equipments with them, and it would be hardly fair, he thought, to expect them to do so. When surveys had been undertaken in these distant parts of our territory, the horses in some instances had been provided by the settlers themselves and in other instances by the Government; but, as a rule, the surveyors found and kept their own horses. That had always been the practice, when they were employed on ordinary surveys, in the settled parts of the colony.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the question referred to in the resolution before the committee had been under the attention of the Government somewhat recently, and he might say it was the intention of the Government to lay down a fixed scale of allowances within which officers travelling on public duty must confine themselves, and outside of which they would not be allowed to go. For his own part, he must admit he did not and could not approve of the principle which seemed to have grown up in the service of allowing public officers to make up any deficiency in their salaries in this way, by means of what might be vulgarly called "perquisites." It was not a right system, and it was the intention of the Government to lay down a scale of allowances within which all officers must confine themselves.

MR. CAREY said that, after the statement made by the leader of the Government, which was exactly what he wished to see done, he would, with the leave of the House, withdraw his resolution, the object he had in view having been accomplished.

Leave given and resolution withdrawn.

VOLUNTEER BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

PRE-EMPTIVE RIGHTS, KIMBERLEY LESSEES.

The debate upon the following resolution, submitted by Mr. McRAE (p. 205 *ante*), was resumed:

"That in the opinion of the House every lessee in the Kimberley District who shall within four years from the issue of the lease or leases held by him have within the said district the number of stock or sheep required by the stocking regulations, shall at any time within such term of four years or within one year after such term be allowed pre-emptive right, extending over one year, to select in one block on any lease or leases held by him, not exceeding one per cent. of the total quantity of land leased by him; and such lessee shall be permitted to purchase such land so selected, at the rate of 5s. per acre, payable by annual instalments of one shilling per acre, extending over five years, and that upon the payment of the last instalment of 5s. per acre by the said lessee, he shall be entitled to and there shall be issued to him a Crown grant of the said land."

Mr. GRANT supported the motion. There could be no question, the hon. member said, as to the desirability of liberalising the conditions upon which Kimberley lessees held their lands, looking at the difficulties, the hardships, and the losses they were subjected to, in their efforts to settle this new country. In all other countries the claims of lessees to a pre-emptive right to secure a portion of their leases for the purposes of a homestead were recognised, and he saw no reason why this principle should be departed from in the Kimberley District.

Mr. BROWN said he was afraid he must oppose the resolution in its present form. He quite agreed that liberal inducements should be held out to these lessees, but not to the extent which the address contemplated. This resolution proposed to give them the right to purchase land at a less rate than other people, which he did not think was a good principle to adopt. He was perfectly prepared to join the hon. member in giving them pre-emptive rights to a reasonable extent, but he thought it was highly undesirable they should be granted such pre-emptive rights as were here proposed. He thought this privilege should be only granted to the lessees on the same terms, as regards the price to be paid for the land, as any other persons. He would therefore move, as an amendment, that all the words after

"select" in the tenth line, be struck out, and the following words be inserted in lieu thereof—"within any lease held by him not exceeding 5 per cent. of the total quantity of land in such lease." This would increase the area of land open for selection, while at the same time it would, as regards the price to be paid for such land, leave the question untouched. In other words the resolution, as amended, would simply affirm the principle that the lessees should be granted pre-emptive rights. The question of what they shall have to pay would, he assumed, be dealt with under the land regulations in force. For his own part he considered the present rate of 10s. an acre too high, but, so long as this was the upset price of land in the district, he thought it should apply to these lessees as well as to other people.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said, speaking as a private member, without in any way expressing the views of the Government on the subject—for he had not consulted His Excellency with reference to it—the resolution somewhat clashed with the policy he had laid down for dealing with our Crown lands—so far as his recommendations might be regarded as having any weight in the consideration of that question. Whatever price was fixed for Crown lands that price should, in his opinion, be paid by all comers; there should be no reduction for one class of men over another class. The squatter or the pastoralist, if he wished to purchase land, should be compelled to pay the same price for it as the agriculturist. He thought he had pretty clearly sketched out his views on that point in his report, in which he somewhat condemned the policy which compelled lessees, in self-protection, to purchase land which they might not require, simply in order to secure their runs from outside purchasers. Not only was it bad policy for the lessee, it was also bad policy for the colony. In this way large districts had, in the past, had the eyes picked out of them by the lessees, simply because they were allowed, and almost compelled, to purchase a portion of their runs in order to protect themselves from outsiders. How much better, as he said in his report, would it have been if the lessees had been given

ordinary and reasonable protection, so that their capital could have been devoted to stocking and improving their runs; and how much better also, for the colony, to have received back, after a stated period, the property that had been leased, in an improved condition, intact? No doubt pastoral tenants must have protection; it was unreasonable to expect that men would improve their runs, if they were subject to be bought out at any moment. In those districts that were not suited for agriculture the more security given the better would it be for the country and all concerned; but he had no faith in the policy which compelled a lessee to purchase land which he did not absolutely require, and for that reason he was opposed to the principle involved in this resolution. All the money a lessee thus expended in securing himself against all purchasers was so much money locked up, and, as there were no conditions attached compelling him to cultivate or improve the land, it remained unproductive. What he would prefer would be long leases for pastoral tenants, and absolute security of tenure during the currency of those leases. Under these conditions he would not object to the lessee selecting (say) from two to five per cent. of the quantity of land leased by him, as a homestead reserve, which he might improve as much as he liked, with the knowledge that his tenure was safe as long as his lease lasted, and so long as he could get it renewed. This was the policy he would like to see adopted both in the Kimberley district and elsewhere. He thought it would prove a much greater boon to lessees, than to compel a man to put down a certain sum of money annually for the purchase of a small block of land within his lease, and for what? Supposing at the end of his fourteen years he did not get a renewal of his lease, what would be his position then? He would have, in the centre of another man's run, a small freehold estate paid for out of money which would have been much better spent in improving his runs. He was instructed in no way by the Government to advance these opinions; they were simply his own private views as to the policy which he thought we ought to adopt in dealing with this question.

MR. CROWTHER was sorry the Com-

missioner of Crown Lands had not gone a little further. He should very much like to see a clause introduced so that these Kimberley lands should not be alienated from the Crown at any price. He would give the lessees a very much longer tenure—he did not care whether it was for ten, twenty, or fifty years—so that he might regard the land to all intents and purposes as his own during that period; and at the end of the term, when the lessee had got the benefit of the land, let it again revert to the Crown, to make the best terms they could for a fresh tenure, paying the outgoing tenant a fair sum for his improvements. He thought that would be the fairest way of dealing with our lands,—he was sure it would be the most advantageous way for the colony. He also thought we had been long enough in this country now, to enable us to have our lands roughly classified. He considered it was very unfair—he thought it was positively unjust—for a landlord, which in this instance was the State, to compel a man taking up land 150 miles from the coast to pay the same price for it as the man who had his land only five miles from the coast, the former perhaps being a sand-patch, and the latter good productive soil. Either one of them was paying a great deal too little, or the other was paying a great deal too much.

MR. MARMION had not desired at any time that any special privileges should be granted to lessees in any district over other people, but he thought some distinction might be drawn between a new country lately opened and the older districts of the colony, and the sole object of the mover of this resolution was to offer some inducement to the pioneers of this new territory.

MR. RANDELL was quite in accord with the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for the Greenough, and he trusted the House would very carefully consider this question before it accepted the original resolution or the amendment. He thought no land should be alienated from the Crown in this Kimberley district. He thought it was apparent that what was sought for by the supporters of this resolution was a good strong lever that would eventually enable the lessees to obtain entire possession of their runs. He thought our past experience in other

districts of the colony ought to be sufficient to induce us to resist this movement. It would enable the Kimberley lessees to do what he thought most people now condemned, as a ruinous policy—to pick out the eyes of the land, and to hold their runs in defiance of anyone, thereby enabling them to make a grand bargain for themselves but to the detriment of the colony. He thought if the State granted long leases, upon reasonable terms, with ample security of tenure, that was all which lessees had a right to ask for, notwithstanding all the difficulties, and all the hardships which he quite admitted they had to encounter. Having been relieved to a great extent from the conditions originally imposed upon them, they now sought for further concessions, which, if granted, would probably stimulate their appetites for more liberal concessions still. He certainly should be averse to giving the lessees any pre-emptive rights to purchase the most valuable portions of their runs, to the detriment of the future interests of the district.

MR. BURT, in order that hon. members might the better understand the full meaning of the resolution as proposed to amend it, moved that the debate be further adjourned until Friday, August 24.

This was agreed to, and the debate adjourned accordingly.

MUNICIPALITIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, moved the second reading of a Bill. The hon. member said the amendment which had been made in the Act last session, with reference to the property qualification of members, had been found to be unworkable in the smaller towns, and the object of the present Bill was to limit the operation of the Act in this respect to the Municipalities of Perth and Fremantle. It was very difficult, in country places, to find men possessed of the necessary property qualification, as defined by the Act of last year, to come forward as candidates for municipal honors. In some cases, councillors who had been elected under the old Act, before this property qualification was imposed, still held their seats, but,

under the provisions of the amending Act, they were liable to a penalty if they sat, and there was nothing to compel them to retire, the consequence being that it was difficult to form a quorum. He hoped the Bill would meet with general support.

The motion for the second reading being agreed to, *nem. con.*,

MR. CAREY moved that the Bill be considered in committee on Friday, 24th August.

MR. S. H. PARKER said he had an amendment to propose, not with any idea of offering any opposition to the Bill, but because there were other amendments in the present Act which he thought might be incorporated in the Bill now under consideration. Under the existing Act, the various Municipalities had no power in any way of leasing any of their reserves, for the purposes of public recreation or otherwise. In Perth alone, the City Council had several reserves which they might turn to profitable use, if they had the power to do so,—the Mulberry Plantation for instance, which, if let, might bring in some revenue to the corporation. Then again there was the Recreation Ground. At present the City Council had no power to let any portion of this ground for cricket purposes, or anything else, and he knew some of the clubs were anxious to lease a portion of the ground, which they might improve and keep for their own use, when they wanted to play on it. He wished to introduce another clause into the Bill giving power to Municipalities to deal with these reserves in the manner indicated, and under the circumstances he thought the most advisable course to follow would be to refer the Bill to a select committee. He therefore begged to move that the Bill be referred to a select committee, consisting of the Attorney General, Mr. Burt, Mr. Carey, Mr. Shenton, and the mover, and, with leave, Mr. Higham.

This was agreed to.

TOTALISATOR BILL.

MR. S. H. PARKER moved the second reading of a Bill to legalise the totalisator under certain circumstances. It was known to hon. members generally that this instrument had been introduced

and been in operation on race-courses, not only in this colony, but in all the other colonies, for some years past. It was an instrument used for betting purposes, whereby any person could place his money upon any horse he might think proper, with the certainty of perfect fairness, and of obtaining his winnings if his horse won. It was an instrument really which enabled persons to (he was going to say) bet honestly,—that was to say, if they desired to back any particular horse they would get the full legitimate proper odds, without any cheating. No doubt it would be thought by some hon. members that this was a measure which would induce or promote the evil of betting or gambling, but it did nothing of the kind. They all knew that wherever there were horse races there would be betting; people liked to back their opinion to a certain extent, and, if they were unacquainted with what the proper odds were against a particular horse, they did not get fair odds, and possibly if they should happen to win they did not get their money in the end. The totalisator would ensure them fair play as regards the odds, and it would ensure their getting their money if they won. It had worked satisfactorily for two or three years past on the Perth course, encouraging fair and legitimate betting and putting down that which was unfair and illegitimate. Book-makers had everywhere made a determined opposition to the totalisator, wherever it had been introduced, simply because it deprived them of their own unlawful gains, and the opposition of these men went far to show that it was an instrument which protected the public, and ensured them a fair chance of winning. He had said that it had worked satisfactorily on the race-course at Perth for some years past, but, as it had not been legalised by an Act of Council, the working of it was unlawful, as it came within the meaning of the 19th clause of the Police Act, as an instrument connected with games of chance. As the Turf Club desired to work the instrument without being guilty of breaking the law, and, as he had been asked by many members to bring in a Bill to legalise it, he had done so. He had worded the Bill most carefully, so that the instrument might not be used

for any illegitimate or unlawful purpose. It would be lawful only when worked under the auspices of a *bonâ fide* club established for the purpose of promoting horse-racing, worked on the race-course of such club, and worked only during the days of any race meeting. Hon. members would thus see that its use was hedged around by every possible safeguard, and he thought they would be perfectly safe in passing the Bill into law.

MR. RANDELL said the hon. member in charge of the Bill had put its object very clearly and plainly, and probably the Bill as drafted was calculated to make the totalisator as little dangerous and as much under control as it was possible to do so. The hon. member said that if gambling took place it would be controlled, and those who at present make unlawful gains out of people who gambled would be prevented from doing so,—so far as the totalisator could prevent them. He believed the instrument had been at work in the other colonies, but that as the result of experience the Acts legalising it had been repealed. [MR. PARKER: In South Australia only.] It had been discountenanced and condemned he believed by a large number of thoughtful people in all the colonies, and especially by religious people. He also believed it had been generally condemned by statesmen and political men, otherwise the Act legalising it would not have been repealed. He was afraid the evils which resulted from its use were not such evils as the hon. member had referred to, but rather that it excited a spirit of gambling in young people. That was the result of its use in South Australia, and it was that which led the Legislature of that colony to repeal the Act legalising it. It was found that young men and the youth of the colony became enamoured of it, and in some cases crime he believed was clearly traced to it among the young. He thought these were grave and sufficient reasons why the House should hesitate to legalise the instrument here. He was sure they would all regret, if the introduction of this machine upon our race-courses should have the result of inducing the young people of the colony to take a liking to gambling, for they all knew how seductive and how powerful the influence of gambling was upon the

minds not only of the impressionable young but also of older persons, and how easily led they were from one step to another, until their ruin is accomplished. Opposed as he was on principle to the Bill, he felt constrained to move, as an amendment, that it be read a second time that day six months. If they could not prevent people from gambling or betting, they could refrain from making gambling and betting legal, and from stimulating those vices.

MR. WITTENOOM said the Bill would have his support. He had seen the totalisator at work on several race-courses, and he really saw no ills or evils attending it. As to young people being tempted by it, his experience went to show that it was old people who seemed to relish it most. One of the strongest arguments in its favor was the fact that the bookmakers were all against it, and had a great "down" upon it, because it took their custom away. He did not think it would stimulate gambling, as the hon. member, Mr. Randell, seemed to imagine; on the contrary, he thought it would be the very best thing for repressing gambling that could be introduced.

MR. CROWTHER said the Bill should have his support. He had seen the totalisator and worked it, and its effect upon public morals was diametrically opposite to what the hon. member, Mr. Randell, apprehended. He saw no young people around it. The argument that it might possibly lead to embezzlement or other crimes applied with equal force to other things. When the Penny Savings Bank was established in England, and payments into the bank were made in stamps, several youngsters were brought up at the police courts charged with having stolen stamps from their employers, for the purpose of investing them in the Penny Bank, but he never heard that used as an argument against the system of Penny Banks.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said he desired to say a few words with respect to the Bill,—not as a member of the Government, for he was not aware at all what views were entertained by the Government with reference to this measure, but as a private individual. So far as he followed the speech of the hon. and learned gentleman in charge of the Bill, the totalisator

was an instrument whereby betting might be carried on with more safety, certainty, and perhaps scientifically, than without it. His own opinion was that betting, or gambling, or whatever other name they might call putting money on mere chance, was to be deprecated; it seemed to him that it was a thing that tended to create a spirit of excitement, which was contrary to that steady work which it was desirable everybody should be imbued with. With regard to horse-racing, what seemed to be a great argument in favor of it was that it tended to improve the breed of horses, which no doubt was a desirable object; but, with regard to the accessories of horse-racing, his own opinion was that they were accessories which we should not encourage. With reference to this question of betting, he would remind the House that by the law of England all bets were void, and if a person made one he did so at his own risk. It was a gambling contract, and the law would not assist him to recover such a debt. The hon. and learned member who had introduced the Bill stated that at present it was unlawful to use this instrument, the totalisator,—though he understood it had been used and that it had worked well, but that as a matter of fact it had been worked unlawfully; and, as he understood the hon. member, he only proposed to make its use lawful when it is worked under the auspices of a *bonâ fide* club (to use the words of the section). It seemed to him that would be making one law for the rich and another for the poor,—that was to say, it would be lawful for a "*bonâ fide* club" to do that which was unlawful for anyone else outside that club to do, which he thought was objectionable. It was said it would take the bookmakers' custom and profits away; if so, he presumed that custom and those profits, if there were any, would go to these "*bonâ fide* clubs" who were to work this thing, which appeared to him to be simply taking the custom away from one party and giving it to another. He had no doubt the totalisator possessed all the virtues attributed to it, as to its fairness, etc., but still the fact remained that in passing this Bill the Legislature would be setting the stamp of legality upon that which was not looked upon as legal by the law at present. There was another objection to

the Bill—a small one, he admitted, and a technical one: it was stated to be a Bill to legalise the totalisator, but there was no definition as to what a totalisator is, and he felt bound to say he did not understand what it meant until he heard the hon. member explain it. It did not appear to him to be a word of which the courts could take any cognisance. It was not a dictionary word, and—perhaps he was very ignorant—he had never heard nor seen it until he saw it in this Bill. It might be well known in Australia, but it seemed to him we should be very much at sea if called upon to define what a totalisator is. At any rate, the Bill was one which he could not give his support to, and he had thought it right not to vote against it without expressing his views on the subject.

MR. S. H. PARKER said he had perused the Bill which had been passed by the South Australian Parliament legalising the totalisator, and that Bill contained no definition of the word, and it struck him at the time as being somewhat strange; but since then he had found that the word was one in common use throughout the Australian colonies, and that the machine was well known on almost every race-course. As a matter of fact and practice it had not been the custom, he might say, for centuries past to embody in Bills of this kind a definition of the games to which they related. Hazard and basset, and other games which were seldom played or understood now, were many years ago, when first prohibited by statute, well known, and he supposed for that reason were not defined by the statute. The Attorney General said bets were void by the law of England; they all knew that. Nor did this Bill seek to make them otherwise. A man could not recover money won on the totalisator any more than he could recover money won on a bet. But the totalisator would do this: if a man risked his money on any particular horse, and that horse won, he would be sure to get what he was entitled to. As to the Bill being intended to benefit one particular section of the community more than another, or as the Attorney General put it, "one law for the rich and another for the poor," the Bill favored no particular class. Rich and poor alike could come and patronise

the totalisator. He could not imagine a measure which was more calculated to do equal justice to all classes, or one which was less deserving of being characterised as class legislation. The hon. and learned gentleman also said that the profits of working the machine would simply be diverted from the pockets of the bookmakers to those of the Turf Club; but what the advocates of the totalisator said, was this: that the profits got by the bookmakers were got by taking unfair advantage of the public, in not giving them proper odds, whereas the totalisator would give everyone a fair chance, and, moreover, the profits derived by the Club would be applied to an object of public importance, namely, the improvement of our breed of horses. He quite agreed with the Attorney General that it would be a very desirable thing if we could do away with betting and gambling altogether, but he was afraid that so long as human nature remained what it is, and games of chance prevailed, we should always find people ready to bet. It was the same with the vice of drunkenness and public houses. Drunkenness could not be put down by Act of Parliament, and all the law could do was to license the houses where drink was sold, and in that way regulate and control the sale of intoxicating liquors.

MR. GLYDE would like to say one word on the Bill, and that was to oppose it. He thought it was their duty as the framers of the law to do all in their power to discourage gambling and all other vices, rather than to foster and legalise them. They all know to what dire results gambling led, especially among the young, and he should be sorry to lend his voice in passing any law which, by affording greater facilities for indulging in this vicious propensity, would only tend to place greater temptation in the way of our young men.

MR. BURT felt it his duty to support the hon. member for Perth in his effort to pass this Bill into law. It was the habit of Englishmen, wherever there was sport, to back up their opinion with a bet, and he knew of nothing more calculated to bring an argument to an end than for a man to offer to bet his opponent that he was wrong. It was absurd to suppose that, regard being had to the very small scale upon which betting was

carried on in this colony, the legalisation of the totalisator would have any pernicious result. We could not put down gaming altogether, that was very certain, but we might restrict it within reasonable limits, which was just what the totalisator did. In this colony—he did not know whether it was the case in England—but in this colony, if any section of the community indulged in a little harmless betting more than another, he believed it was married women, and he was surprised to find the hon. and learned Attorney General, who was such a staunch supporter of married women's rights, opposing this Bill.

The House divided on the motion for the second reading of the Bill, with the following result—

Ayes...	...	...	...	14
Noes...	...	...	...	8

Majority for ... 6

AYES.	NOES.
Hon. M. Fraser	Hon. A. P. Hensman
Hon. J. Forrest	Hon. J. H. Thomas
Mr. Brown	Mr. Burges
Mr. Burt	Mr. Glyde
Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.	Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Carey	Mr. Higham
Mr. Crowther	Mr. Shenton
Mr. Grant	Mr. Randall (Teller.)
Mr. Marnion	
Mr. McRae	
Mr. Steere	
Mr. Venn	
Mr. Wittenoom	
Mr. S. H. Parker (Teller.)	

The amendment submitted by Mr. Randall was therefore negatived.

Bill read a second time.

The House adjourned at twelve o'clock, midnight.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 21st August, 1883.

Raising of 1883 Loan—Responsible Government: As to terms upon which it will be granted—Imported Labor Registry Bill (Mr. Brown's): first reading—Metallizing of Bridges—Report of Surveyor General on Crown Lands in the Central Districts—Inspector of Accounts' Report on Railway Accounts—High School, Perth, Mortgage Bill: in committee—Dog Bill: second reading—Electric Telegraph Bill: re-committed—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

RAISING OF THE 1883 LOAN.

MR. STEERE, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary whether any information had been received by the Government with reference to the raising of the last loan?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) replied that no official information had been received, and that the Government knew nothing further than what was contained in the telegrams which had appeared in the public Press. If the House desired it, the Government would telegraph an inquiry on the subject to the Crown Agents—though it had not been thought necessary by the Government to do so, as no doubt full information on the subject would arrive by an early mail.

TERMS UPON WHICH RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT WILL BE GRANTED.

MR. GRANT, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary if any reply had been received by the Government to the question asked by the hon. member for Perth (Mr. S. H. Parker), last session, as to the terms and conditions upon which Responsible Government would be granted to Western Australia?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said no reply had been received.

IMPORTED LABOR REGISTRY BILL.

MR. BROWN, in accordance with notice, moved for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the laws providing for the registration of certain persons who shall be imported into Western Australia, or employed in any manner within the territorial dominion thereof.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

METALLIZING OF BRIDGES.

MR. BURT, in accordance with notice, drew the attention of the Government to the present danger to traffic that existed upon the Perth Bridge, and the bridges at Guildford over the Swan and Helena rivers. The hon. member said this might seem a very small matter with which to occupy the attention of that honorable House, but he was sure, when